
Polish police say they have recovered the sign from the former Auschwitz Nazi death camp which had been stolen on Friday. Its theft caused international condemnation as it has come to symbolise Auschwitz, where more than one million people died. Adam Easton reports:

Police said the sign, which had been cut up and divided into its three **constituent words**, had been found in a small town in northern Poland. They said five men, between twenty and thirty nine years of age, had been **detained** and taken south to Krakow, not far from Auschwitz, for questioning.

It's not clear **at this stage** why the thieves stole the five metre long black **hollow** steel sign. Its theft **triggered** a **nationwide** search with the **authorities** offering a \$40,000 reward for information.

Both the presidents of Poland and Israel **condemn** the crime. A spokesman for Auschwitz, now a museum which attracts a million visitors a year, compared it to **desecrating** a cemetery. He said the sign would be repaired and hung over the main entrance gate. A **replica** has already gone up in its place.

Adam Easton, BBC News, Warsaw

Vocabulary and definitions

constituent words	part of a sentence or expression
detained	kept in one place (here, by the police)
at this stage	at this time
hollow	not solid - having an empty space inside
triggered	caused a situation or chain of events to start
nationwide	happening in all parts of the country
authorities	a group of people with official responsibility
condemn	criticise something very strongly usually for moral reasons
desecrating	damaging or showing no respect towards something
replica	an exact copy

More on this story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8423827.stm>

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/language/wordsinthenews/2009/12/091221_witn_auschwitz_page.shtml